

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 2, 4-8 and 10-20 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

Claims 5 and 11 have been amended to be in independent form. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

New claims 14-18 are added to restore at least partially the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added.

New claims 19 and 20 have also been added.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

CLAIMS 2, 4-8, AND 10-13

The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 11 to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have also amended claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10, and 12-13 to depend variously from claims 5 and 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 4-8, and 10-13 are all now in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS 14-18

New claims 14-17 depend from claim 5, and new claim 18 depends from claim 11. Therefore, claims 14-18 are deemed allowable for at least the reasons that claims 5 and 11 are deemed to be allowable, respectively.

NEW CLAIMS 19-20

Among other things, in the display panel of claim 19, each of the column electrodes has a stepped pattern such that no straight line extends along a border of the column electrode from a top to a bottom thereof. Such a feature is disclosed in

the specification, for example, in FIG. 7 and the text at col. 9, lines 5-8.

Applicants respectfully submit that such a feature is not disclosed in any of the cited references.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-20 define patentable subject matter and it is respectfully requested that they be allowed.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 2, 4-8 and 10-20 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (703) 715-0870 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment (except for the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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